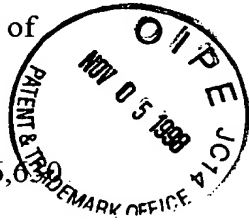


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of)
Jipin Zhong et al.) Group Art Unit: 1615
Application No.: 09/006,030) Examiner: C. AZPURU
Filed: January 13, 1998)
For: BIOACTIVE SOL-GEL)
COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS)



#5
11/18/98
J. M. U. U.

RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The following remarks are submitted in complete response to the Official Action mailed June 1, 1998. Reconsideration and re-examination pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

The sole rejection of record is under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Hench et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,222,092 ("Hench et al").¹ The rejection is respectfully traversed for all of the reasons that follow.

Prior to addressing the rejection of record, a brief description of the background of the invention is provided for the convenience of the Examiner. The formation of bioactive glass monoliths having pore sizes sufficient to provide for bioactivity and resorbability has been problematic due to the tendency for such monoliths to crack during

¹ It is believed that this is the "Hench" patent that forms the basis of the rejection.